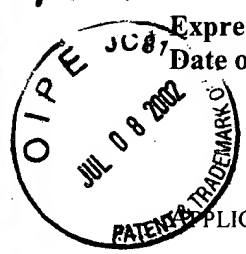


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Attorney Docket No. 15966-606 (CURA 106)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Shimkets *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/715,417 EXAMINER: R. Hutson
FILING DATE: November 16, 2000 ART UNIT: 1652
FOR: NOVEL POLYPEPTIDES AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as set forth below.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 3 and claims 5-28, 30-31, and 33-43 without prejudice or disclaimer as being drawn to the non-elected invention.

Replace pending claims with the following:

- Q1
1. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the mature form of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:32.
 2. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 that is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the sequence given by SEQ ID NO:32.
 - Q2
 4. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence comprising one or more conservative substitutions in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:32.
 - Q3
 29. (Amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a carrier.
 - Q4
 32. (Amended) A kit comprising, in one or more containers, the composition of claim 29.
 - Q5
 44. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:32.